



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

7/021/004
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**DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING**

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February 8, 1994

Mr. Alan Wilson, Reclamation Engineer
Hecla Mining Company
P.O. Box C-8000
Coeur D'Alene, ID 83814-1931

RE: Reclamation Plan, Rev. 2, Escalante
Tailings Pond

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We received your second revision draft, for reclamation of the Escalante tailings pond dated January 13, 1994 and a copy of a letter to Hecla from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) on the subject. Reiterating language on the subject from our July 14, 1993 and November 8, 1993 letters to DOGM, our concerns are that our Consent Agreement was made on the premise that there would be an effective cap or cover on the pond to exclude precipitation. Hecla should have copies of these letters. The base of the pond is lined with clay and a recently completed test well indicates the pond overlies poorly permeable tuff and alluvium, so a good seal is necessary to prevent the pond from becoming saturated.

Your proposed 10 inch layer of waste rock, 14 to 18 inch subsoil and 6 inches of topsoil over the tailings meets our July 14, 1993 request, and is similar to the scenario 2 and scenario 3 proposals which have greater evaporation and runoff rates than scenario 1 used in the Help model. A greater rooting depth for plants is also provided. Based on this the revision 2 reclamation plan is satisfactory to us provided these thickness are met. Details of the plan should be worked out with DOGM and BLM.

The under drain may be sealed after there is no more drainage. Should you have questions, please call Mack Croft at 538-6084.

Sincerely,

Fred C. Pehrson, P.E., Manager
Permits, Compliance & Monitoring Branch

FCP:MC:leg

cc: **DOGM**

Wayne Thomas
SW Distr. Health Dept.

P:RECPLAN.LTR

FILE:HECLA MINING

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